

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

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SUBJECT: KULAKOV TOUTS BREZHNEV'S FARM PROGRAM

REF: MOSCOW 3771, MARCH 18,1974

1. CPSU PARTY SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF AGRICULTURE, F.D. KULAKOV, ENDED A 7-WEEK ABSENCE FROM PUBLIC LIFE TO GIVE THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE MARCH 24-26 OBSERVANCE OF THE DECENNIAL OF THE MARCH 1965 PARTY PLENUM ON AGRICULTURE. APPARENTLY IN GOOD HEALTH AND FORM, KULAKOV GENEROUSLY PRAISED BREZHNEV'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOVIET FARM POLICY AND REVIEWED THE DECADE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS PRACTICALLY AN UNBROKEN STRING OF SUCCESSES. WITHOUT REFERRING TO DROUGHT YEARS OR GRAIN IMPORTS, HE DID NOTE IN PASSING THAT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND FIBER WAS INSUFFICIENT FOR ENTIRE NEEDS OF SOVIET SOCIETY.

2. THE MEETING WAS SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTE OF MARXISM-LENINISM, THE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND THE LENIN AGRICULTURAL ACADEMY: THE THREE MAJOR ADDRESSES WERE GIVEN BY PARTY FIGURES -- KULAKOV, BELORUSSIAN PARTY BOSS P.M. MASHEROV,
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AND MOLDAVIAN PARTY LEADER I.I. BODYUL. MINAG USSR D.S.

POLYANSKIY, THE RANKING PARTY FIGURE PRESENT BECAUSE OF HIS SENIORITY STATUS AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO, DID NOT SPEAK, WHICH WE REGARD AS FURTHER INDICATOR THAT HE IS HAVING POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES.

3. PUBLISHED REMARKS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF CHANGES IN FARM ADMINISTRATION WERE EXTREMELY RESTRAINED, MUCH MORE SO THAN WERE BREZHNEV'S PROPOSALS ON THE SUBJECT AT THE ALMA-ATA MEETING OF MARCH 15, 1974, (REFTEL). KULAKOV NOTED THE PRESENT STRESS ON SPECIALIZATION AND CONCENTRATION, AND HE SAID THAT SOVIET AGRICULTURE NEEDS NEW IDEAS FROM SCIENTISTS AND A FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE. AS USUAL, BELORUSSIAN LEADER MASHEROV FOCUSED ON RURAL SOCIAL CHANGES AND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS. HE COMPLAINED OF THE FEW READY ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS ARISING IN BASIN RESETTLEMENT PLANS ON THE CREATION OF THE NEW RURAL PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS; THE LACK OF THEORETICAL GUIDANCE FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF KOLKHOZ AND STATE OWNERSHIP OF FARM PROPERTY WAS ALSO DECRIED BY HIM. HE CLAIMED THAT THE PEASANT HAD BEEN IDEOLOGICALLY CONVERTED, BUT THAT THE CULTURAL SERVICES OF SOVIET SOCIETY HAD NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE. MOLDAVIAN LEADER BODYUL SPOKE OF HIS REPUBLIC'S LEADERSHIP ROLE TOWARD ESTABLISHING VERTICAL INTEGRATION IN FARM PRODUCTION.

4. COMMENT: THE SEMINAR ON THE MARCH PLENUM WAS ESSENTIALLY A PARTY AFFAIR AND FEATURED PARTY SPEAKERS AT A GATHERING OF PARTY, AGRICULTURAL, AND SCHOLARLY LEADERSHIP. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE APPEARED TO BE THE BOOSTING OF BREZHNEV AS THE PRIME FORCE BEHIND CURRENT SOVIET FARM POLICY WHICH IS REGARDED AS A PROVEN SUCCESS. PRESUMABLY, DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS WAS MORE DETAILED AND FRANKER IN THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS, BUT THE CENTRAL PRESS DID NOT PUBLISH THEM THEY MAY APPEAR SUBSEQUENTLY IN THE SPECIALIZED PUBLICATIONS OR IN BOOK FORM. MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PANELS HAD ALREADY PUBLISHED ARTICLES IN THE BOOK "KURSOM MARTOVSKOGO PLENUMA" (ON THE COURSE OF THE MARCH PLENUM) WHICH WAS ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC IN FEBRUARY 1975. STOESEL

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